

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 123870

FOLLOWING REPEAT KINSHASA 4795 SENT ACTION SECSTATE, ALGIERS,
BRUSSELS, BRAZZAVILLE(POUCH), BUKAVU (POUCH), DAR ES SALAAM,
JIDDA, HAVANA, LAGOS, LUBUMBASHI, LUSAKA, MOSCOW, PARIS,
PEKING, PRETORIA, RABAT, TRIPOLI, USUN NEW YORK, USNATO,
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER/ECJ4/7, EC"W-T, SECDEF, DIA WASHDC,
USICA, LISBON 15 MAY 78

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 4795

DEPT ALSO FOR A/SY/OPS/FO/AF

DEPT PASS PEACE CORPS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CASC, CG
SUBJECT: SHABA INVASION-SITREP 1 (MAY 15, 1978)

1. A. STATUS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF AMERICAN
CITIZENS AT KOLWEZI APPEARS TO BE 79. OF THIS TOTAL, TWO ARE
PRESENTLY UNACCOUNTED FOR AND PRESENCE OF FOUR OTHERS IS UN-
CONFIRMED. TWO MISSING AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE CIS (I.E. AN AMERICAN
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CONSTRUCTION COMPANY) EMPLOYEES WHO ZAIRIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY
(DDN) STATES ARE IN REBEL HANDS. FOUR AMERICAN CITIZENS WHOSE
PRESENCE IS UNCONFIRMED INCLUDE TWO CATHOLIC MISSIONARIES,
ONE TOURIST AND ONE EMPLOYEE OF THE ZAIRIAN COPPER COMPANY
GECAMINES. FIFTY-SIX OF THESE 79 AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE LOCATED
AT CIS CAMP EIGHT MILES NORTHWEST OF KOLWEZI. TEN MORE AMERICAN
CITIZENS ARE LOCATED AT ANOTHER CIS BASE AT MUSONOIE,
APPROXIMATELY 80 KILOMETERS NORTH OF KOLWEZI AND OUTSIDE OF
IMMEDIATE DANGER AREA. REMAINING 7 AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE IN
KOLWEZI TOWN IN HOSTILE-HELD OR CONTESTED AREAS. THEY INCLUDE
6 METHODIST MISSIONARIES AND ONE CIS EMPLOYEE.

2. OTHER THAN KOLWEZI AREA, AMERICAN CITIZENS LOCATED NEAREST TO AREA OF FIGHTING ARE ONE PCV AND ONE AMERICAN MISSIONARY COUPLE AT MULUNGWISHI AND TWO PCV'S AT LIKASI. GOZ ACTING SHABA REGIONAL COMMISSIONER ELAMO TOLD CONSULATE LUBUMBASHI THAT HE HAD NO AUTHORIZATION TO PERMIT ANY FOREIGNERS TO BE MOVED. HOWEVER, WHEN HE WAS TOLD PCV'S WERE SINGLE FEMALES, HE AGREED THEY COULD BE BROUGHT TO LUBUMBASHI IF DONE DISCREETLY. CONSULATE LUBUMBASHI SENT VEHICLE TO MULUNGWISHI AND LIKASI 0900 LOCAL MAY 15 FOR THIS PURPOSE.

3. THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF ANY HARM TO AMERICAN CITIZENS OTHER THAN SLIGHT INJURIES SUSTAINED BY CHILD DEPENDENT OF CIS EMPLOYEE REPORTED IN KINSHASA 4740. THREE EUROPEANS HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN KILLED IN KOLWEZI INCLUDING ONE BELGIAN ENGINEER KILLED BY RANDOM FIRE INTO AN APARTMENT. THE IDENTITY OF THE OTHER TWO HAS NOT YET BEEN ESTABLISHED. THEIR BODIES REPORTEDLY WERE DEPOSITED IN FRONT OF POST OFFICE NIGHT OF MAY 14, AFTER HAVING BEEN EXECUTED BY REBELS.

4. GECAMINES' KOLWEZI CHIEF RENARD MET WITH EX-KATANGAN CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AT KOLWEZI MAY 13 IN AN ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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EVACUATION OF ALL EXPATRIATES FROM KOLWEZI (LUBUMBASHI 450 AND 461). ACCORDING TO RENARD, EX-KATANGANS APPARENTLY WISH TO KEEP THE EXPATRIATES CLOSE AT HAND, PERHAPS AS SHIELD AGAINST FAZ AERIAL BOMBARDMENT/COUNTER ATTACK OR PERHAPS AS BARGAINING CHIP IN WHATEVER NEGOTIATIONS THE INVADERS PLAN. EX-KATANGANS AT ONE TIME WISHED TO ASSEMBLE ALL EXPATRIATES IN ONE AREA. WHEN INFORMED THAT THIS WAS IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY THREE THOUSAND EXPATRIATES IN AREA CONTROLLED BY EX-KATANGANS, INVADERS' COMMANDER ORDERED EXPATRIATES ALL TO STAY AT HOME. COMMANDER ADDED THAT SITUATION WOULD RETURN TO NORMAL MAY 15 AND THAT "THEY WOULD ALL GO BACK TO WORK." (EMBASSY COMMENT: RENARD'S VERSION CONTRASTS WITH THAT GIVEN BY GENERAL BABIA AND REPORTED SECTION B BELOW,)

5. GECAMINES REPORTS THAT POPULATION IN KOLWEZI BECOMING VERY NERVOUS, ALMOST TO THE POINT OF MILD PANIC. INVADERS POLITE UPON ARRIVAL, BUT SOME HAVE NOW TURNED NASTY, PILLAGING AND FIRING THEIR WEAPONS INDISCRIMINATELY IN TOWN (WHICH CAUSED ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF BELGIAN MENTIONED ABOVE).

6. ACTING REGIONAL COMMISSIONER ELAMO ISSUED ORDERS FOR CURFEW IN LUBUMBASHI, LIKASI, KIPUSHI, AND KAMBOVE FROM HOURS OF 1800-0630 BEGINNING MAY 14. CONSULAR CORPS MEMBERS WHO HAVE APPROPRIATE ID AND WHOSE AUTOMOBILES HAVE CC PLATES ARE EXEMPT.

7. PRINCIPAL OFFICER BORG RETURNED TO LUBUMBASHI MAY 14. CONSULATE HAS REVIEWED E&E CONTINGENCIES. AT THIS POINT, IT BELIEVES WARNING PHASE SHOULD BE CALLED ONLY IF INVADING FORCE MOVES OUT OF KOLWEZI AREA IN DIRECTION OF LIKASI AND LUBUMBASHI.

IF EVACUATION TO TAKE PLACE, LOGICAL LAND EXIT ROUTE WOULD BE KAMBALESE ROAD TO ZAMBIA.

8. (B) MILITARY SITUATION AS OF 1000 LOCAL TIME MAY 15.
NOTE: ALL GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCES ARE TAKEN FROM JOINT OPERATIONS GRAPHICS SERIES 1501 MAPS.

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9. ZAIRE'S DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AND TERRITORIAL SECURITY (DDNST) HAS NOT YET BEGUN REGULAR BRIEFINGS ON THE CURRENT MILITARY SITUATION IN SHABA. GENERAL BABIA REPORTED MAY 15 THAT THE SITUATION REMAINS ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED IN THE KOLWEZI AREA. FAZ HEADQUARTERS IN KINSHASA LOST CONTACT WITH BRIGADIER GENERAL DIKUTA'S COMMAND POST AT THE NZILO I DAM SITE (1029S/2527E) AT 0100 LOCAL TIME MAY 15, BUT REESTABLISHED CONTACT FIVE HOURS LATER. ACCORDING TO BABIA, HOSTILE FORCE COMMANDER MAJOR MOFU HAD ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO EVACUATE ALL EXPATRIATES FROM THE KOLWEZI AREA. TO THIS END HE REQUISITIONED TRUCKS AND PARKED THEM IN FRONT OF THE POST OFFICE, WHERE THEY WERE STRAFED BY FAZ MIRAGES.

10. AMCONSULATE LUBUMBASHI REPORTS THAT TWO PCV'S VISITED LIKASI FOR THE WEEKEND AND RETURNED TO LUBUMBASHI ABOUT 1700 MAY 14. THEY FOUND THE SITUATION CALM IN LIKASI AND ONLY ORDINARY SECURITY MEASURES IN FORCE ON THE LIKASI-LUBUMBASHI ROAD, ALTHOUGH MANY FAZ SOLDIERS WERE IN EVIDENCE. TWO GECAMINES BULLDOZERS WERE OBSERVED NEAR THE BRIDGE ON THE EASTERN APPROACH TO THE CITY, APPARENTLY INTENDED TO BLOCK THE BRIDGE AT NIGHT.

11. THERE IS NO CONFIRMATION AT PRESENT REGARDING ANY HOSTILE ACTIONS OTHER THAN THOSE IN THE VICINITY OF KOLWEZI. NOR HAVE THE INVADERS YET MADE KNOWN THEIR OBJECTIVES IN OCCUPYING KOLWEZI; THUS FAR THERE HAVE BEEN NO DEMANDS EITHER FOR AN INDEPENDENT KATANGA OR THE OVERTHROW OF MOBUTU.

12. C) TROOP DEPLOYMENTS AS OF 1000 LOCAL TIME MAY 15.
HOSTILE FORCES: ACCORDING TO GOZ, THE MAY 13 ATTACKS AT KOLWEZI (1043S/2528E) BY EX-KATANGAN GEMDARMES WERE THE RESULT OF A CAREFUL INFILTRATION BY HOSTILE FORCES WHICH HAD DEPARTED THE CAZOMBO

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SALIENT OF ANGOLA SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, TRANSITING THE NORTHWESTERN CORNER OF ZAMBIA, TO ENTER ZAIRE ALMOST DUE SOUTH OF KOLWEZI. APPARENTLY DDNST HAD SOME FORREKNOWLEDGE OF THIS INFILTRATION EFFORT, BECAUSE AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE AROUND KOLWEZI AND A GROUND CHECK OF SECURITY HAD BEEN ORDERED LATE LAST WEEK. IT APPEARS TO FAZ THAT HOSTILE FORCES WERE USING KOKOMA, ZAMBIA (1118S/2513E)

AS A FORWARD SUPPLY BASE TO SUSTAIN THEIR ELEMENTS INSIDE ZAIRE.

13. AS OF MID-DAY MAY 14, REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE BELGIAN MILITARY ATTACHE STATED THAT ZAIRIAN MILITARY ELEMENTS (FAZ) IN KOLWEZI WERE BEING SUBJECTED TO A Pincer MOVEMENT, WITH HOSTILE FORCES BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH OF FAZ POSITIONS. KOLWEZI AIRPORT, THE OLD PORTION OF KOLWEZI TOWN, AND SOME POINTS IN THE NEW TOWN WERE IN REBEL HANDS.

14. ZAIRIAN FORCES: GENERAL BABIA HAS DIRECTED THAT THREE COMPANIES PROCEED FROM LUBUMBASHI TO REINFORCE UNITS AT KOLWEZI. FAZ UNITS AT KANZENZE STATION (1033S/2511E) HAVE ALSO BEEN ORDERED TO MOUNT A COUNTERATTACK. A SPECIAL BATTLE STAFF HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED

AT DDNST, WITH TWO FRENCH OFFICERS PARTICIPATING IN ITS WORK. NO BELGIANS HAVE YET BEEN ASKED TO TAKE PART IN THIS SPECIAL BATTLE STAFF.

15. ZAIRIAN AIR FORCE (FAZA) LOSSES OF AIRCRAFT IN THE ATTACK ON KOLWEZI AIRPORT WERE HEAVY; 5 TO 7 MACCHIS, ONE ALOUETTE HELICOPTER, ONE BUFFALO TRANSPORT, 2 - 4 CESSNA 310 OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT, AND ONE PUMA HELICOPTER. THE REMAINING FAZA ASSETS IN SHABA ARE OPERATING OUT OF KAMINA BASE (0844S/2500E). DURING THE WEEKEND OF MAY 13-14, FAZA ADDED FOUR MIRAGES TO THE TWO ALREADY AT KAMINA BASE. A TOTAL OF 8 C-130 MISSIONS WERE FLOWN TO KAMINA TO TRANSPORT JET FUEL, AVGAS, AND 40-50 MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL.

16. FIVE OF FAZA'S SIX C-130'S ARE CURRENTLY OPERATIONAL. HOWEVER, THREE HAVE GAS TURBINE COMPRESSORS (GCT) WHICH ARE IN CONFIDENTIAL

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MARGINAL CONDITION, AND NO SPARES ARE AVAILABLE. A SMALL AUXILIARY ENGINE USED TO PROVIDE COMPRESSED AIR TO START THE MAIN ENGINES, THE GTC IS ESSENTIAL FOR OPERATION OF THE C-130'S AWAY FROM HOME BASE.

17. FOUR CESSNA 310'S ARE CURRENTLY OPERATIONAL, WHILE THREE ARE UNDER REPAIR IN KINSHASA. ALL MACCHIS WERE EITHER DESTROYED AT KOLWEZI OR ARE DOWN FOR EXTENSIVE REPAIRS. THE SIX MIRAGES NOW AT KAMINA ARE THE ONLY ONES NOW OPERATIONAL. ANOTHER SIX HAVE BEEN GROUNDED FOR LACK OF SPARE PARTS.

18. D. INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION. THE SITUATION IN KINSHASA REMAINS CALM WITH THE LOCAL POPULATION APPARENTLY TAKING A WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE. HOWEVER, FAZ HAS TAKEN PRECAUTIONS AGAINST POSSIBLE CIVIL DISTURBANCES. THERE HAS BEEN A NOTICEABLE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF FAZ TROOPS, ARMED WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS, PATROLLING KINSHASA AND GUARDING KEY INTERSECTIONS. IN ADDITION, THE FORCES PROTECTING PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S RESIDENCE AT CAMP TSHATSHI HAVE BEEN STRENGTHENED BY THREE OF FAZ'S PRC-SUPPLIED LIGHT TANKS. FYI THE TIME REQUIRED TO MOVE THE TANKS FROM THEIR

BASE AT MBANZA-NGUNGU (THE ORDER MUST HAVE BEEN ISSUED BY MAY 11 AT THE LATEST) INDICATES THAT FAZ ACTED BEFORE FIGHTING BROKE OUT IN KOLWEZI. END FYI

19. F. DOMESTIC PRESS COVERAGE. ZAIRIAN DOMESTIC COVERAGE OF THE FIGHTING IN SHABA PROVINCE DID NOT START UNTIL SUNDAY. 14 MAY, AT 1:30 P.M LOCAL TIME, AT WHICH TIME THE VOICE OF ZAIRE BROADCAST A COMMUNIQUE PREPARED BY THE OFFICIAL ZAIRE PRESS AGENCY AND READ BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL RADIO. THE COMMUNIQUE REPORTED AN "ATTACK BY ARMED REBELS...AGAINST THE CITY OF KOLWEZI" AT ONE A.M. THE MORNING OF 12 MAY.

20. KINSHASA'S MONDAY NEWSPAPERS CARRIED THE FULL TEXT OF
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THE AZAP COMMUNIQUE, AS DID THE DAILY BULLETIN OF THE OFFICIAL PRESS AGENCY, AND THE FRENCH-LANGUAGE NEWS BROADCASTS CONTINUE CARRYING THE SAME COMMUNIQUE. NO NEW INFORMATION HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN ADDITION TO THAT MADE AVAILABLE SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

21. MONDAY'S EDITION OF THE AZAP DAILY BULLETIN ALSO CARRIED A FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL CALLING THE FIGHTING "OPERATION COLOMBE: ...-MACHIAVELLIAN PLAN CONCEIVED IN HAVANA AND ELABORATED IN ALGIERS." IN TOTAL, THE EDITORIAL ACCUSES FIVE COUNTRIES OF COMPLICITY IN THE INVASION: ANGOLA, CUBA, LIBYA, ALGERIA, AND THE SOVIET UNION. ZAMBIA IS ALSO ACCUSED OF HAVING ALLOWED THE INVADERS PASSAGE THROUGH A PORTION OF THEIR TERRITORY. KINSHASA'S FRENCH-LANGUAGE DAILY "ELIMA" MONDAY CARRIED AN EDITORIAL ON THE FIGHTING, CALLING FOR FULL BACKING FOR "THE GUIDE:" PRESIDENT MOBUTU SESE SEKO.

22. G) DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY. AS REPORTED KINSHASA 4760,
ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER IDZUMBUIR CALLED IN BELGIAN, FRENCH, CHINESE,

MOROCCAN AND U.S. CHIEFS OF MISSION MAY 14 AND APPEALED FOR MAXIMUM SUPPORT ZAIRE IN FACE OF CURRENT ATTACK ON SHABA. APPEAL WAS IN GENERAL TERMS, BUT WE EXPECT SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE WILL

BE FORTHCOMING SOON. ACKNOWLEDGING AMBASSADOR CUTLER'S CONCERN REGARDING WELFARE OF AMERICAN CIVILIANS IN KOLWEZI, IDZUMBUIR ADDED THAT THAT WAS ALL THE MORE REASON US SHOULD GIVE AS MUCH AS HELP AS POSSIBLE. IDZUMBUIR CITED EVIDENCE OF CUBAN PRESENCE AMONG ATTACKERS AND MADE CLEAR GOZ INTENDED "TO ACCUSE CUBANS AND SOVIETS OFFICIALLY AT APPROPRIATE TIME." GOZ WILL INFORM OAU AND UN SECGEN OF SITUATION BY MAY 16, BUT WILL AWAIT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS BEFORE SEEKING ACTION FROM THOSE ORGANIZATIONS.

23. H) PETROLEUM SITUATION. ACCORDING TO LOCAL SOURCE IN PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, PETROLEUM (POL) SITUATION IN SHABA NOW AT WORST POINT IN LONG TIME. FEW POL STOCKS OUTSIDE OF THOSE
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HELD BY GECAMINES EXIST IN THE REGION AND LARGEST PART OF THE GECAMINES SUPPLY (2400 OF 2786 CUBIC METERS) WAS HELD IN KOLWEZI. THERE IS EFFECTIVELY NO GASOIL (DIESEL) OUTSIDE OF KOLWEZI EXCEPT FOR 1000 CU.M. NEAR ILEBO ENROUTE TO SHABA BY BARGE. AN EQUAL AMOUNT OF JP-1 JET FUEL IS ALSO ENROUTE. SOURCE REPORTED THAT JP-1 STOCKS IN KINSHASA ARE SUFFICIENT BUT THAT GASOLINE WILL PROBABLY BE SHORT FOR A FEW DAYS. AN ADDITIONAL TANKER OF PRODUCT IS DUE TO ARRIVE AT MATADI 19 MAY.

FAS HAS ORDERED FINA TO PROVIDE IMMEDIATE 1000 BARRELS OF JP-1 AND 500 BARRELS EACH OF GASOLINE AND DIESEL, PRESUMABLY FOR SHABA. 1000 BARRELS OF JP-1 FROM FAZ OWN STOCKS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SENT.
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